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CLAIMS:

1. A satellite-based fax distribution system including:

a producer receiving a document to be faxed and traffic instructions for said

5 document, said producer determining an affiliate based on said traffic instructions and directing said document to said affiliate through a satellite;

a satellite receiving said document from said producer and transmitting said document to said affiliate; and

an affiliate receiving said document and faxing said document to a recipient.

10 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said traffic instructions include recipient information identifying said recipient.

15 3. The system of claim 1 wherein said recipient information is sent to said affiliate.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said producer receives said document from a virtual fax print driver.

20 5. The system of claim 1 wherein said affiliate includes a memory for storing said document.

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6. The system of claim 1 wherein said affiliate stores information concerning said document.

5 7. The system of claim 1 wherein said affiliate notifies said producer of the status of said document received by said affiliate.

8. A method for distributing faxes via a satellite-based fax distribution system, said method including:

10 receiving a document to be faxed;

receiving traffic instructions regarding said document;

determining an affiliate based on said traffic instructions at a producer;

directing said document to said affiliate through a satellite;

receiving said document at said affiliate; and

15 faxing said document from said affiliate to a recipient.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said traffic instructions include recipient information identifying said recipient and said recipient information is sent to said affiliate.

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10. The method of claim 8 wherein said producer receives said document and said traffic instructions from a virtual fax print driver.

11. The method of claim 8 further including storing said document at said
5 affiliate.

12. The method of claim 8 further including storing information regarding said document at said affiliate.

10 14. The method of claim 8 further including notifying said producer of the status of said document received by said affiliate.

15 15. An affiliate in a satellite-based fax distribution system, said affiliate including:

a receiver for receiving a document from a producer over a satellite communication link, said document routed from said producer to said receiver by traffic instructions;

a fax system for faxing said document to a recipient.

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16. The affiliate of claim 15 wherein said traffic instructions include recipient information identifying said recipient and said recipient information is sent to said affiliate.

5 17. The affiliate of claim 15 further including a memory for storing said document.

10 18. The affiliate of claim 15 further including a memory for storing information regarding said document.

19. The affiliate of claim 15 wherein said receiver notifies said producer of the status of said document received by said affiliate.

15 20. An Ethernet Digital Storage (EDS) Card for use in a satellite-based fax distribution system, said EDS card including:

a flash memory storage for storing at least a portion of a received document; and
a command processor sending said document to a fax system for transmission.

20 21. A satellite-based fax distribution system including:
a producer in communication with a satellite, said producer receiving a document to be faxed and traffic instructions for said document, said producer determining a

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plurality of remote affiliates based on said traffic instructions and directing said document to said plurality of remote affiliates through said satellite;

a satellite receiving said document from said producer and transmitting said document to said plurality of remote affiliates; and

5 a plurality of remote affiliates,

whereby said plurality of remote affiliates receive said document from said satellite, and

whereby said plurality of remote affiliates faxes said document to a plurality of remote recipients..

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22. The system of claim 21 wherein said traffic instructions include recipient information identifying said plurality of remote recipients.

23. The system of claim 21 wherein said recipient information is sent to said plurality of remote affiliates.

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24. The system of claim 21 wherein said producer receives said document from a virtual fax print driver.

20 25. The system of claim 21 wherein at least one of said plurality of remote affiliates includes a memory for storing said document.

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26. The system of claim 21 wherein at least one of said plurality of remote affiliates stores information concerning said document.

5 27. The system of claim 21 wherein at least one of said plurality of remote affiliates notifies said producer of the status of said document received by said affiliate.

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